

steadfast commitment to education and a vision such as the one Tim King shared with others in his community back in 2002. As a member of Sigma Pi Phi fraternity, we played a minor role in assisting Urban Prep with our fundraising efforts to contribute to the purchase of a uniform for these young men. We also make ourselves available to go there and work with them during career day to point out our successes and opportunities to challenge them to do no less than what we were able to do. So the men of Sigma Pi Phi worked with these young men at Urban Prep and we made sure that we made a similar contribution to the overall efforts.

Let us renew our investment in America's education system. Let us affirm our priorities for young people today and make sure every one of them has a chance to get the education they deserve. Together, we can build more success stories such as Urban Prep, and that is what we must do. Urban Prep is a public school so, therefore, we do not have to be dedicating all of the resources commitment to the private schools. We can educate our young people in the public system.

I thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, the Senate resume consideration of H.R. 1586 at 2:15 p.m., Tuesday, March 16; further, that during any recess, adjournment or period of morning business, postcloture time continue to run; and that after the convening of the Senate at 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, the Senate resume consideration of the House message with respect to H.R. 2847, and all postcloture time be considered expired, the motion to concur with an amendment be withdrawn, and no further amendments or motions be in order, except as provided in the DeMint motion to suspend; that it be in order for Senator DEMINT to offer a motion to suspend the rules in order to offer an amendment, and that if the motion is offered, Senator DEMINT be recognized for up to 10 minutes; that upon disposition of the DeMint motion, the Senate then vote on the motion to concur in the House amendments to the Senate amendment to the House amendment to the Senate amendment to the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF JOHN HATCHER

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, I rise to speak about a dear and trusted friend, not just for me and my family but for the people of Lorain County, OH. John Hatcher was a man of conscience and courage. His commitment to the highest ideals is unwavering, even in the face of criticism and attempts to silence him.

In large and small ways, John Hatcher has done more for the working men and women of Lorain County and organized labor than anyone else I know. John is a retired United Auto Workers member from the Ford Motor Company Ohio assembly plant in Avon Lake.

For generations, the plant helped build Lorain's middle class—the same way that American manufacturing built America's middle class. He has long held a position of leadership in the labor movement, and his loyalty to his fellow workers and to those who champion them has never wavered. He is still president of the Lorain County UAW CAP Council and a board member of the Lorain County Labor Agency.

He has chaired the Lorain County Labor Day Festival Committee for several years—an event that attracts thousands of Lorain County families to celebrate the accomplishments and heritage of organized labor. And every month, John finds time to deliver food to the elderly through the Lorain County Office on Aging.

For the many years I have known John—two-and-a-half decades, perhaps—he has been a fighter who is not afraid to stand up for what he believes. And as he battles cancer, John is displaying the same vigor, the same fighting spirit. Yesterday, hundreds of friends, families, and elected officials joined in honoring John with the Lorain County AFL-CIO Lifetime Achievement Award.

John said—and I was standing with him—“I haven't been out in the community much the past few months, but as the warm weather comes, I will be back out soon.”

In many ways, John's presence is always felt in Lorain—through the workers he has helped and for the causes which he has championed. He is a tireless champion for working men and women. He has made an invaluable contribution to the labor movement.

You never wonder where you stand with John Hatcher. He is the best kind of friend. He stands sturdy at your side in the highest winds, but is also willing to rein you in if you are getting too full of yourself. He is one of the kindest people I know, always greeting his friends with a twinkle in his eye and the hug of a man twice his size.

Of all his accomplishments, the hours of labor spent at the factory, in the union hall, or on the picket line fighting for others, if you asked John, his proudest achievement is being a devoted husband to Carol—one of my favorite people—and a loving father to 6 children, 13 grandchildren, and 7 great-grandchildren.

Thank you, John, for your service to the working men and women of Lorain County, for your service to the State of Ohio, and for your service to our Nation. Connie and I are honored to consider you our dear friend.

TRIBUTE TO MARILYN ROBERSON

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Marilyn Roberson of Massillon, OH, a proud grandmother of five Eagle Scouts. This year, the Boy Scouts of America celebrates its hundredth anniversary of service to our Nation. Already this year, I have attended Boy Scout celebrations and Eagle Scout Courts of Honor across my State.

Around Ohio and our Nation, families and friends, community and business leaders, are celebrating Scouting's commitment to service, to protecting the outdoors—some of the original environmentalists—and to instilling the values of faith and fellowship.

Growing up in Mansfield, OH, a city of 50,000 in north central Ohio—an industrial town—my parents instilled in my brother and me our own values of compassion and commitment to community. My two brothers and I are Eagle Scouts and my mother wore a charm bracelet representing each of her Eagle Scout sons. I always claimed my Eagle Scout emblem was larger than my brothers'. She always denied that.

In many ways, Scouting's commitment to family and community laid the groundwork for my years in public service—as it has for the Eagle Scouts now in elected office in this body—I think there are 6 others in the Senate—or executives in boardrooms, teachers in classrooms, or just model citizens everywhere in our country.

On March 20, 2010, the Boy Scouts of America, Venture Crew 10 of Massillon, OH, will hold an Eagle Court of Honor for five young men who will become Eagle Scouts. Among the Eagle Scouts will be Andrew and Timothy Bushman, who will become the fourth and fifth grandsons of Mrs. Marilyn Roberson to become Eagle Scouts.

Marilyn Roberson is now 86 years old, and like many of our role models she has taught her grandchildren the capacity for selflessness, and to have the confidence to serve with humility and honor. I knew Marilyn's late husband Al 25 years ago, when I first met Al and Marilyn and several of their children. Al grew up in Tupelo, MS, across the street from Elvis Presley, then moved north, started a business, was very successful, and always—always—Marilyn and Al and their children gave back to the community.

I congratulate Andrew, Timothy, their fellow Eagle Scouts, Ian Christopher McKinney, Mathew Michael McKinney, and Michael David Ternaux, for earning this important honor. I congratulate Eagle Scouts across Ohio—there are hundreds of New Eagle Scouts every year—for earning this

honor and taking part in a great American tradition, which asks you to live with honor and loyalty and act with courage and service.

It is a creed of common purpose and community service based on the Scout oath, ever present in the 12 points of the Scout law.

While each of you as Eagle Scouts will forever be an Eagle Scout, your accomplishments are not easily defined by the number of badges earned but, rather, the character and dignity you show in earning them. For Andrew and Timothy, that dignity has been shaped by your remarkable grandmother, Mrs. Marilyn Roberson. Thank you, Mrs. Roberson, for your dedication to your family and for your service to our great State and for the legacy you have created for so many.

I yield the floor. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING SANDRA MASON

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I have often talked about the importance of the many professional staff members and various support services that allow for the proper functioning of this great institution, the U.S. Senate. These individuals and offices are rarely mentioned in newspapers or history books, but they work many long hours with great energy, exceptional skill, and admirable adherence to high quality work. As a result, the contribution of such dedicated public servants greatly assists the work we do as Senators; they make our work more pleasant and productive than otherwise would be possible.

An example of the sense of pride and loyalty that Senate employees bring to their daily responsibilities is the career of Mrs. Sandra Mason, who prior to her retirement was the Director of Protocol and Foreign Travel for the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. Mrs. Sandra Mason, who was known to her many friends in the Senate as "Sandy" served on the staff of that committee from 1979 through 2008, when she completed her Federal employment. As one can easily imagine, this is a position of considerable responsibility, which in no small part determines the successful hosting of

high-level foreign dignitaries visiting the Senate, as well as the efficient operation of official Senate delegations traveling abroad. I remember that when I traveled on Senate business accompanied by my dear wife Erma, Sandy Mason's hard work and expert aplomb made all the difference for a memorable and very positive undertaking.

During her entire extraordinary career, which commenced with employment with Senator Hubert H. Humphrey in 1971, Sandy earned the love, respect, and praise of all those who worked with her and came to know her.

Sandy passed away on Monday, March 8, 2010. She will be greatly missed but certainly not forgotten. I extend warm personal condolences to her husband Ronald, her son Aaron, and all of her beloved family, and offer my sincere wishes that she, and they, receive the Blessings of our Creator.

Let fate do her worst, there are relics of joy,
Bright dreams of the past that she cannot destroy,

That come in the night-time of sorrow and care,
And bring back the features that joy used to wear.

Long, long be my heart with such memories filled,
Like the vase in which roses have once been distilled,

You may break, you may shatter the vase if you will,
But the scent of the roses will hang round it still.

Scent of the Roses
—by Thomas Moore

STATE DEPARTMENT HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTS

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, this month's release of the State Department's annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices shows the value of consistently monitoring human rights around the globe.

As Chairman of the U.S. Helsinki Commission charged with monitoring international human rights commitments in 56 countries from the U.S. and Canada to Europe and Central Asia, this annual report is a key tool that we, and others, use to track progress being made on universal freedoms.

This year's reports have increased significance as 2010 is the 35th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act and the 20th anniversary of historic international human rights agreements, the Copenhagen Document, and the Charter of Paris for a New Europe.

In a year commemorating such landmark human rights documents, this month's State Department reports remind us that many of the commitments countries made in the past still have not been met with meaningful action today.

In Belarus, where I visited last summer, the political space for opposition remains tightly controlled, independent media face continual harassment, and elections are a farce.

The overall situation in Russia remains disturbing as well. There 2009

was a year again filled with mourning the very people who stood for freedom, be they journalists, human rights advocates or lawyers simply trying to present a case against corruption. The country's harassment of Jehovah's Witnesses and forceful break up of public demonstrations remain particularly concerning.

I urge Kazakhstan, as the current chair of the OSCE, to lead by example through concrete actions, starting with the release of activist Yevgeny Zhovtis, whom staff from the Helsinki Commission visited this week in prison. Zhovtis at least deserves the same freedoms afforded other prisoners in his facility, including the right to work outside the facility during the day.

In Kosovo, in addition to problems with human trafficking, official corruption and a lack of judicial due process, the State Department notes the lack of progress regarding displaced persons of all ethnicities, politically and ethnically motivated violence, and societal antipathy against Serbs and the Serbian Orthodox Church. The lack of progress regarding the country's international recognition, while unfortunate, does not absolve Kosovo authorities from their responsibility to ensure greater respect for human rights and adherence to the rule of law.

Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy Human Rights and Labor Michael Posner, who serves as the State Department Commissioner on the U.S. Helsinki Commission, did a superb job of unveiling the report today with Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

I was heartened to hear him specifically flag examples of 2009 human rights violations within the OSCE region that drew the attention of the Commission last year. The banning of construction of Muslim minarets in Switzerland, the pervasiveness of discrimination against Roma—Europe's largest ethnic minority, and the continued rise of anti-Semitism in Europe sadly still remain concerns this year.

While these country reports help to hold all governments—including our own—to account; and while much of their text shows the reality of a world troubled by violent conflicts and the mistreatment of our most vulnerable people; the State Department reports also show the positive that surrounds us.

In this vein, Assistant Secretary Posner was right to mention the fairness of Ukraine's recent elections, for which my colleague Cochairman HASTINGS led the election observation mission. And the reports are eager to cite progress where appropriate.

But these reports affirm something else, and that is the strength of the legislative-executive branch cooperation when it comes to upholding universal standards. The Helsinki Commission is unique among all federal agencies for being comprised of Senate, House and executive branch commissioners, and Assistant Secretary Posner's activity with the Commission